

City of Newton
Crime Prevention Commission
May 18, 2012

As First Presented at the Lower Falls Community Center (a/k/a Hamilton Community Center)
545 Grove St., Newton, MA.

Tips for Preventing the Home Invasion

1. **Strangers and Solicitors**: Never open the door to a total stranger. Keep the door secured and only open for a known individual. Talk through the door or even a screened in window if needed. Use your porch light to help you to see clearly outside. Never rely on a chain-latch as a barrier to partially open the door. Call the police if a stranger acts suspicious. Alert your neighbors to suspicious solicitors.
2. **Peephole**: Consider installing peepholes for use when you talk through the door.
3. **Posers**: Be aware that home-invaders pose as delivery people, public workers, or people in distress.
4. **Call Company They Represent**: Under no circumstances, should you open the door unless you validate who they are. Call the company they say they represent if needed.
5. **Claims of Distress**: If someone claims to be in distress, tell them that you will call the police for them.
6. **Spare Phone Line/ Cell Phone**: Consider a second line or a cell phone in your bedroom. Burglars often remove a telephone from the receiver when they enter a home. Have the Police and Fire Department numbers programmed in advance.
7. **Install an Alarm**: A home alarm perimeter system activated while you are sleeping can startle or prevent a burglar from getting into your home. Newer alarms have cellular options, a safeguard even if the phone lines are cut or power is lost.
8. **Valuables Inaccessible**: Make sure that your valuables are inaccessible and locked away when you are not home. Use a small safe or home safe. Limit how many outsiders to the family know what valuables are in the home or where they are.
9. **Social Media Precautions**: Never post that you are away on vacation or that the house will be unattended for long periods of time. Thieves watch these sites to see when people are away and use these houses as easy targets.
10. **Locks**: Lock all doors, windows, and garages at all times. Call a qualified locksmith to complete a physical security survey of your home. Ensure that you have the right locks and lock sets to provide the best possible solutions to protect your home. Use four three-inch screws to secure heavy duty lock strike plates in the door frame. Install solid core doors, heavy duty locks, and window security devices.
11. **The Ultimate Video**: Consider installing video cameras in and around your home. The price of video has drastically dropped and installation can be quite reasonable these days. As it is said, a picture is worth 1000 words and having a burglar on camera can allow the Police a valuable tool in solving a crime.
12. **The Family Meeting**: Consider holding a family meeting to discuss home security plans